



The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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Landmark Legislation to Overhaul Florida's Career and Education Systems Clears House Floor

Bills would increase integration, accountability and transparency for Florida's job seekers

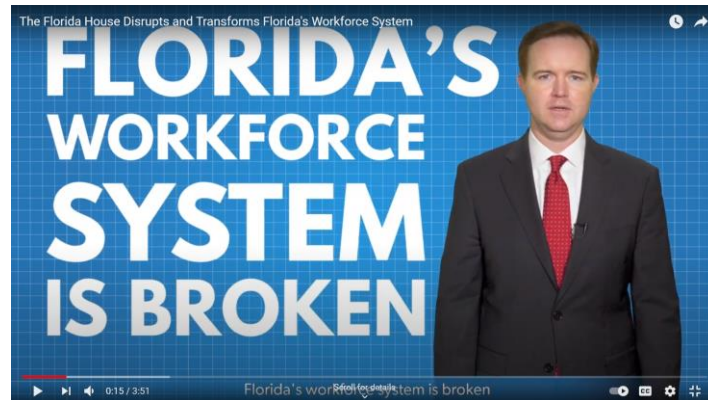
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (April 14, 2021) — Today, landmark legislation that would overhaul and transform Florida's career and education help systems for job seekers, students and workers of today and tomorrow passed with bipartisan support off the House floor.

The agenda spearheaded by Speaker Sprowls to overhaul Florida's workforce system consists of two bills:

- CS/CS/CS/HB 1507 or the "REACH (Reimagining Education And Career Help) Act," sponsored by Representative Clay Yarborough, R-Jacksonville, which creates a more efficient workforce system to ensure equity and access to jobs and upward mobility. It passed unanimously.
- CS/HB 1505, sponsored by Representative Lauren Melo, R-Naples, which creates a consumer-centered workforce system that integrates delivery of services and reporting and provides better information for Floridians as they seek meaningful employment. It passed unanimously.

"As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic that has left many seeking a job or their next step in education, Floridians have been hamstrung by an outdated and fragmented workforce system that puts more emphasis on inputs than outcomes. We're putting an end to that today; in Florida, workforce programs must meet actual outcome standards," said Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor. "With the passage of these bills, job seekers and students can be confident that we are closer than ever to providing the most unified and exceptional workforce system in the nation to help them land and grow in an in-demand career."

Following an audit by the U.S. Department of Labor outlining workforce program failures, Speaker Sprowls in February [directed](#) House Education & Employment Chairman Chris Latvala, R-Clearwater, to investigate and propose solutions. The bills passed today off the House floor were borne out of that process. An explainer [video](#) published Tuesday provides more information about what the bills do.



“We’ve seen a real lack of accountability from the folks who are getting paid to get people jobs, and that is not acceptable. Where there are no real standards in place, there’s no incentive to deliver for the people you’re serving,” said Chair Latvala. “I am proud of our committee members for their hard work on creating legislation that builds in accountability into these workforce programs so that we can see our residents not only have access to, but that they are getting results from, the systems we invest in and count on for employment and economic success.”

“It is imperative that we ensure our workforce and education systems are efficiently serving Floridians, preparing them to succeed in a robust, competitive and changing economy,” said Representative Yarborough. “The legislation refocuses Florida's workforce system to be on the consumer -- improving his or her access to services and effectively measuring the success of job training on job placement.”

“A single workforce information system will help consumers access services from multiple agencies through one unified site,” said Representative Melo. “The bill establishes specific outcome and performance measurements for apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs and improves career planning help by requiring state resources be integrated.”

Both bills now go to the Florida Senate for consideration. For more information, visit www.myfloridahouse.gov.

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